



October 5, 2007

This edition of the COD Processing Update will remain on the [COD Web site](#) until a new edition is posted. We will notify schools via a COD Web Message when a new edition has been posted.

ACG, National SMART Grant, and Pell Grant Programs

COD News

End of Federal Fiscal Year 2007 Work Completed [08/14/07 (Updated 10/02/07)]

As explained in [an August 13, 2007 Electronic Announcement posted on the IFAP Web site](#), September 30, 2007 marked the end of the Federal fiscal year for the Department of Education (the Department). Some of the Department's core financial systems, including the Grant Administration and Payment System (GAPS), were on a modified processing schedule while the Department finalized its processing and accounting for Fiscal Year 2007.

The Department is pleased to report the successful completion of this work and the availability of the Grant Administration and Payment System (GAPS). The Department appreciates schools' patience and understanding as it completed this important activity. As a reminder, all financial processing is expected to be caught up by Friday, October 5, 2007.

2006-2007 Grant Processing Deadline was October 1, 2007 [09/05/07 (Updated 10/02/07)]

The deadline for electronically transmitting Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG), National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant), and Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant) records for the 2006-2007 Award Year to the COD System was 11:59 P.M. (ET) on Monday, October 1, 2007.

From October 2, 2007 forward, the COD System will accept and reject 2006-2007 ACG, National SMART Grant, and Pell Grant data as follows:

ACG and National SMART Grant Programs

- Accept and process decreases to previously accepted 2006-2007 award originations and decreases to previously accepted 2006-2007 disbursements.
- Accept and process originations and disbursements of new 2006-2007 awards or 2006-2007 award amount increases only if the Department has granted Administrative Relief or Extended Processing for the 2006-2007 Award Year.



Pell Grant Program

- Accept and process decreases to previously accepted 2006-2007 award originations and decreases to previously accepted 2006-2007 disbursements.
- Accept and process originations and disbursements of new 2006-2007 awards or 2006-2007 award amount increases only if 1) the student was in a Potential Overaward Process (POP) situation during the 2006-2007 Award Year or 2) the Department has granted Administrative Relief or Extended Processing for the 2006-2007 Award Year.

Note: Unless one of the situations outlined above applies, the COD System will reject originations and disbursements of new 2006-2007 awards or 2006-2007 award amount increases and return COD Edit 43 (New Award Amount or Award Increase Received After End of Processing Year and Institution has Not Been Granted Extended Processing) or COD Edit 71 (New Disbursement Increase, or Disbursement Release Indicator to “True” Received After End of Processing Year and Institution Has Not Been Granted Administrative Relief).

For additional information about Administrative Relief and Extended Processing for the 2006-2007 Award Year, refer to [the September 4, 2007 Electronic Announcement posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#).

Impact on COD Processing October 7-8, 2007 (09/28/07)

Federal Student Aid is planning to execute a Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System maintenance activity on October 7, 2007. This activity will result in outages of certain COD System functionality for a period of time. Federal Student Aid appreciates your patience and understanding as it completes this important activity. In addition, funding requests will not be processed on October 8, 2007, the Columbus Day Federal holiday.

An explanation of how this activity and the holiday will impact COD System availability and processing follows below. Please review this information to determine if processing at your school will be affected.

COD System Maintenance

On **Sunday, October 7, 2007**, we will perform system maintenance on the COD System. The impact to COD users is as follows—

For Grant and Direct Loan Participants—

- Users will not be able to submit or retrieve data via the COD Web site between 2:00 A.M. and 6:00 A.M. (ET).

Columbus Day Federal Holiday

Monday, October 8, 2007 is the Columbus Day Federal holiday.

For Grant and Direct Loan Participants—

- The COD School Relations Center will be open.



- The Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System will accept and process data from schools and send back responses/acknowledgments on Monday, October 8, 2007, but schools will not be able to receive any Federal funds on that day. Requests for changes in funding levels and for funds will not be processed until Tuesday, October 9, 2007.

Complete information regarding processing and customer service hours for COD and other Federal Student Aid/Department of Education call centers on the holiday is posted in the [“Columbus Day Federal Holiday Processing and Customer Service Hours”](#) Electronic Announcement on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP Web site).

Corrected Guidance Posted – How to Accurately Report Verification Status Codes to COD System (10/01/07)

In an Electronic Announcement posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site on September 24, 2007, Federal Student Aid provided schools with updated operational guidance on the codes to use when reporting verification status in Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant) awards. Subsequently, on September 28, 2007, Federal Student Aid posted corrected guidance that supersedes the earlier guidance.

The only change Federal Student Aid has made to the earlier guidance is to correct the first paragraph under the “Verification Status Report” section to accurately reflect the students who are listed in this report. The report lists all of the school’s students with reported Pell Grant disbursements who were selected by the Central Processing System (CPS) for verification and who do not have a verification status code of “V” or “S”.

Please update your school’s procedural documentation with [the September 28, 2007 Electronic Announcement posted on the IFAP Web site](#). If you have questions about reporting verification status codes to the COD System, contact the COD School Relations Center.

Updated Computer-Based Training Program for COD System Web Site, COD Reports, and Electronic MPN Web site (10/01/07)

Federal Student Aid is pleased to announce the availability of an updated Computer-Based Training (CBT) for the COD System Web site. The updated COD CBT includes enhancements that have been made to the COD System from March 2004 through April 14, 2007. Additionally, a new Direct Loan Reports CBT, a new Grant Reports CBT, and new simulations of the Direct Loan Electronic Master Promissory Note (MPN) Web site have been developed.

For additional information regarding the electronic files for the CBTs and simulations, as well as instructions for downloading and using these files, refer to [the September 28, 2007 Electronic Announcement posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#).

2006-2007 COD Technical Reference September 2007 Updates Now Available (10/01/07)

The [2006-2007 COD Technical Reference September 2007 Updates](#) are available on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site. The 2006-2007 COD Technical Reference consists of multiple volumes that contain development information for the 2006-2007 Award Year. For a complete list of updates, refer to the “0607 COD Technical Reference



September 2007 Change Tracking Log.” If you have any questions about this material, contact the COD School Relations Center.

2007-2008 COD Technical Reference September 2007 Updates Now Available (10/01/07)

The [2007-2008 COD Technical Reference September 2007 Updates](#) are available on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site. The 2007-2008 COD Technical Reference consists of multiple volumes that contain development information for the 2007-2008 Award Year. For a complete list of updates, refer to the “0708 COD Technical Reference September 2007 Change Tracking Log.” If you have any questions about this material, contact the COD School Relations Center.

2008-2009 COD Technical Reference Draft Third/Final Installment Now Available (10/01/07)

The third and final installment of the [2008-2009 COD Technical Reference Draft](#) is available on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site. The 2008-2009 COD Technical Reference consists of multiple volumes that contain development information for the 2008-2009 Award Year. If you have any questions about this material, contact the COD School Relations Center.

Note: Federal Student Aid plans to post the final 2008-2009 COD Technical Reference in October 2007.

Updated National SMART Grant Major/CIP Codes for 2007-2008 Award Year in COD System (09/27/07)

As explained in [Dear Colleague Letter GEN-07-06](#), the Department of Education (the Department) has added new eligible academic majors under the National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant) Program for the 2007-2008 Award Year. The list of the new eligible academic majors for the 2007-2008 Award Year and a complete list of all eligible academic majors for the 2007-2008 Award Year are attached to [Dear Colleague Letter GEN-07-06](#).

In accordance with the addition of the new eligible academic majors for the 2007-2008 Award Year, Federal Student Aid has updated the Major/Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) codes for 2007-2008 National SMART Grant awards in the COD System. The COD System will accept a 2007-2008 National SMART Grant award that includes one of the newly added eligible academic majors in the Major/CIP Code field of the Common Record document submitted via batch processing or provided online via the [COD Web site](#).

Federal Student Aid has updated the Major/CIP Code information in the 2007-2008 COD Technical Reference.

Note to EDExpress Users: The addition of eligible academic majors for the 2007-2008 Award Year does not impact any of the EDExpress modules.

This same information is posted in [a September 26, 2007 Electronic Announcement posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#).

Updated ACG Recognized Rigorous Secondary School Programs of Study for 2007 Graduates and Updated/Expanded Resource Guide (09/25/07)

As schools are aware, one of the components of a student's eligibility for an Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) award is the completion of a rigorous secondary school program of study. State recognized plans are one of the options for meeting this requirement.

Recently, Federal Student Aid discovered that six state recognized plans approved by the Secretary of Education for 2007 high school graduates in January 2007 were not programmed in the Central Processing System (CPS) and in the COD System. The previously missing plans are for Kentucky, Missouri, New Hampshire, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Both systems have now been modified to include these plans.

In [a September 24, 2007 Electronic Announcement posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#), Federal Student Aid informed schools of the system modifications and updated and expanded the "Quick Reference to the ACG Recognized State Rigorous Secondary School Programs of Study," which has been available for schools since July 2006. Specifically, there are now two versions of this operational resource guide—one for 2005 and 2006 high school graduates and the other for 2007 high school graduates. Schools can use each version of the operational resource guide as a quick reference to the recognized rigorous secondary school programs of study for each state for the applicable high school graduation year.

Please refer to [the September 24th Electronic Announcement](#) for additional information about the updated ACG Recognized Rigorous Secondary School Programs of Study for 2007 graduates and the updated/expanded resource guide.

If you have questions about the ACG rigorous secondary school program of study requirement, contact the COD School Relations Center.

G5 Phase 1 Implementation Overview Now Available (09/25/07)

In June 2007, the Department of Education (the Department) announced the development of ***G5—a state-of-the-art electronic system for grants management and payments***. G5 will replace the current Grant Administration and Payments System (GAPS), including the e-Payments functionality used by schools to draw down Campus-Based, Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG), National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant), Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant), and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) funds. G5 will provide a number of performance, processing, and customer enhancements.

As previously explained, the Department will implement G5 in three phases over several years. Phase I of G5 will address e-Payments and provide improved drawdown functionality. Full implementation of Phase I is targeted for the last quarter of calendar year 2007—most likely over the Veterans Day holiday weekend (November 8-12, 2007).

Recently, the Department posted a "G5 Phase 1 Implementation Overview" presentation on the GAPS [e-Payments Web site](#). This overview is also available at the following URL:

http://www.g5.gov/PPT_for_G5_v082707.pps



Please share the information, as appropriate, with others at your school/organization.

As explained in the overview, G5 online training will be available in October 2007. Information about the availability of the online training and other training opportunities will be provided in forthcoming communications. Information about the service outage that will be necessary when Phase 1 is implemented will also be provided in forthcoming communications.

The most current G5 information is posted on the GAPS [e-Payments Web site](#) and in [a September 25, 2007 Electronic Announcement on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#).

If you have any questions about the status and/or implementation of G5, contact the GAPS hotline at 888/336-8930 or e-mail G5_Admin@ed.gov (G5_Admin@ed.gov).

NEW!

Updating School Contact Information in the COD System (10/05/07)

Federal Student Aid wants to remind all schools and third party servicers that contact information in the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System must be kept current. Contact information is extremely important for the COD School Relations Center. Of utmost importance are e-mail addresses and mailing addresses.

- The e-mail address for the Financial Aid Administrator is used to deliver time-sensitive materials and critical COD processing information to the school.
- For a Direct Loan school, correct mailing address information ensures that Direct Loan closeout letters are delivered timely and to the correct place.

Please ensure that all contact information is updated as needed.

Submitting Updates to School Contact Information

Depending on the type of information to be updated, a school must submit updates in one of the following two ways:

1. In accordance with 34 CFR 600.21, most changes must be reported using the Electronic Application for Approval to Participate in Federal Student Financial Aid Programs (E-App). This includes changes to the following information:
 - School name
 - School address (including any branches and locations)
 - Names of the President (or equivalent title), Chief Financial Officer (or equivalent title), and Financial Aid Administrator (or equivalent title)
 - Telephone numbers and e-mail addresses for the above officials

Once the E-App is processed, the [COD Web site](#) is updated within 24 hours. It may take longer if there is additional information required by the School Participation Team (formerly known as the Case Management and Oversight Division).

2. Two specific changes can **only** be made via the [COD Web site](#). These are changes to the Direct Loan Officer contact information/ mailing address and the Pell Grant Officer



contact information/ mailing address. To view and/or update the current contact information for these officers, complete the following steps:

- Log in to the [COD Web site](#).
- From the School tab, select the “Financial Aid Contact” link (located under the School Information menu). The School Financial Aid Contact Information screen displays the current information for the school.
- Update or add new contact information by clicking on the “Update” or “Add New” button in the heading for the officer to be updated.
- Complete the new information and submit the changes.

This information will be processed and updated immediately on the [COD Web site](#).

An Electronic Announcement with this same information is posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site. If you have any questions about updating your school’s contact information, contact the COD School Relations Center.



ACG and National SMART Grant Resources (10/05/07)

As a reminder, the Department of Education (the Department) has posted a number of Dear Colleague Letters and Electronic Announcements that communicate regulatory, policy, and operational information related to the implementation of the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) and National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant) programs. In addition, Federal Student Aid has updated the [2006-2007 COD Technical Reference](#) and the [2007-2008 COD Technical Reference](#), and has posted some volumes of the [2008-2009 COD Technical Reference Draft](#). A school should refer to the [communications posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#) and to the 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 COD technical references for complete information about the ACG and National SMART Grant programs.

More specifically, the 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 COD technical references cover all aspects of the operational implementation of the ACG and National SMART Grant programs. This includes information on the following key aspects of ACG and National SMART Grant processing:

- Financial Award ID and Financial Award Number (Award Sequence Number)
Volume II, Section 1 “Implementation Guide”
- Citizenship and Student Level Code
Volume II, Section 1 “Implementation Guide”
- Message Classes
Volume II, Section 2 “Message Classes”
- Common Record Layout
Volume II, Section 3 “Common Record Layout”
- Reports Generated by COD System



Volume VI, Section 8 “COD Reports”

- Eligibility/Payment Reason and Rigorous High School Program Code for ACG Volume VI, Section 9 “Rigorous Secondary School Programs of Study, and Eligible Majors”
- Major/Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) Code for National SMART Grant Volume VI, Section 9 “Rigorous Secondary School Programs of Study, and Eligible Majors”

If your school needs help locating information related to the operational implementation of the ACG and National SMART Grant programs, contact the COD School Relations Center.

Note for EDExpress Users: Volume III of the 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 COD technical references provides additional guidance for schools that use EDExpress in combination with another system. If your school needs help locating information related to EDExpress, contact CPS/SAIG Technical Support at 880/330-5947 or by e-mail at CPSSAIG@ed.gov.


Reports And Data Requests



NOTICES

This section contains important notices regarding reports and/or data requests. While we encourage you to review this section, note that some schools may not be impacted by the information presented below.

Status of Daily Reports and Data Requests Sent to Schools on October 4, 2007 [10/04/07 (Updated on 10/05/07)]



Previously, Federal Student Aid reported that early on October 4, 2007 it sent reports to schools' Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailboxes and posted them on the [COD Web site](#). However, these reports did not reflect data from awards processed on October 3, 2007. Later on October 4, 2007, Federal Student Aid corrected the reports, resent them to the affected schools' SAIG mailboxes, and reposted a second corrected version (as applicable) on the [COD Web site](#).

Federal Student Aid apologizes for the inconvenience the incorrect reports may have caused schools.

The impacted Daily Reports and Data Requests are as follows:

Daily Reports

- Pell Funded Disbursement List (2005-2006, 2006-2007, and 2007-2008)



Data Requests

- Pell POP Report (2006-2007 and 2007-2008)
- Pell Verification Status Report (2005-2006, 2006-2007, and 2007-2008)
- Pell Reconciliation Report (2003-2004, 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2006-2007, and 2007-2008)
- ACG Reconciliation Report (2006-2007 and 2007-2008)
- National SMART Grant Reconciliation Report (2006-2007 and 2007-2008)
- Pell Multiple Recording Record (2005-2006, 2006-2007, and 2007-2008)
- ACG Multiple Recording Record (2007-2008)